AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

If the packets are transmitted in a system that utilizes channel coding, the channel encoding rate R [[®]] = useful information bit rate/channel decoded data bit rate) can be decreased (relative to less critical types of communication transmissions) until the probability of failure to deliver the context update request or the context update is reduced to a suitable level below that of less critical types of communications on the link. The desired encoding rate R can be determined, for example, empirically through experimentation.